

Property - 1936

UNION CITY, N. J.
HUDSON DISPATCH

FEB 14 1936

Mrs. Banks, Negro, Still
"Works Out by the Day"

The Denver Post prints the unusual story of \$300 paid to the city treasury by Mrs. Lottie I. Banks, Negro, who "works out by the day." Mrs. Banks recently inherited \$1,100 from her father, George C. King, but it had a stipulation. The old man was in the city hospital at the time. He wanted his daughter to pay in full for his hospital expense, rather than have it charged to the city. Also, his aged aunt, Mrs. Mary T. Duke, had been on old age pension in Denver to the extent of \$200 before she died.

George King, Negro, had been custodian of a branch of the Y. M. C. A. in Denver. Previously he had taught school in Mississippi. He had high principles on his own account. At the Y. M. C. A. he heard much of the character-building that goes on in such institutions.

His self-respect made it impossible for him to accept public help, with money in the bank. Nor did he feel that his aunt should have been a dependent upon the city in her old age, when he had money in the bank. He did not interfere with the pension, but made up his mind that the family name would be cleared of any charity.

The old Negro probably went too far in paying back the old age pension. But he had very set ideas about himself.

And Mrs. Banks, having carried out the wishes of her father, still has a balance in the bank, but still "works out by the day."

Colorado.

Property - 1936

EX-SLAVE AIDED SCHOOL

Santa Cruz, Cal.—(UP)—An engraved tombstone has been erected over a grave in Evergreen Cemetery. The inscription reads: "He was a colored man. He left his entire fortune to Santa Cruz School District No. 1." He was Ewden Nelson, ex-slave, who died here in 1860, leaving his entire property, consisting of a city lot which later sold for \$300 to help the three-year-old school of that day.

California.

Property - 1936

Georgia

Southern White Woman Bequeaths Large Sums To Colored Servants

AUGUSTA, GA.—The reading of the will of the late Mrs. Mary Wynne Pope, widow of the late Frederick B. Pope, revealed that two of her colored employees were substantial beneficiaries.

Her chauffeur and personal attendant, William H. Youngblood, will receive \$20,000 in cash, in addition to such articles of personal and household effects as may be selected.

Mr. Youngblood was employed by Mr. Pope many years ago, succeeding his father, William H. Youngblood, senior, who had spent his life in Mr. Pope's service. Mrs. Pope was deeply attached to the Youngbloods, and in recent years young Mr. Youngblood and his wife accompanied her each summer to her summer home in New England, the trip usually being made in her Cadillac, driven by Mr. Youngblood.

Mr. Youngblood is well known in New York City, where he has made considerable investment in real estate.

A feature of Mrs. Pope's will reveals her consideration for her employees. A paragraph stipulates that "should it develop that my estate is insufficient to pay all legatees in full, I desire and direct that there shall be no abatement of said legacies to the said servants, but all other legacies shall abate in equal proportion."

To her maid, a white woman, Mrs. Pope left \$12,000 and to yardman, Lewis Bauman, a colored man, was left \$6,000.

The entire estate approximated \$400,000, and the residue estimated at \$225,000, will accrue to the University Hospital, with which is connected the Lamar Hospital for colored patients with a staff of colored nurses.

Mrs. Pope was a native Georgian, having been born in Washington, Wilkes County.

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Illinois.

PEORIA, ILL.
STAR

APR 23 1936

LESSON IN THRIFT.

The will of Joseph Johnson, Peoria Negro, just filed for probate here, offers an impressive ~~object~~ lesson in thrift.

Johnson was born in slavery. It can well be imagined that he had few opportunities. He died a few days ago, and when his will was filed it disposed of an estate valued at \$15,200, of which \$6,000 was in real estate and the remainder personal property.

He probably made small wages most of his life, yet when he died he was the owner of three houses and held several shares of good stocks.

By frugality he had saved for a rainy day. In his old age he did not have to worry about the wolf at the door.

His example of saving and investing might well be followed by thousands of the white race, who could thus protect themselves against want in their declining years. After all it is not what you make, but what you save that counts. A dollar usually is a man's best friend.

WHITES GET NEGRO'S FORTUNE

CHICAGO (C)—White Virginians have been awarded the \$79,000 fortune of Mrs. Maria Turner, widow of State Senator Shadrick B. Turner who died in 1927. The award was on the order of the Appellate Court.

Evidence in the case showed the whites, six in number, were descendants of Lucian Fletcher, white, who was Mrs. Turner's father by a marriage to Mary Elizabeth Woodfork, a slave. Fletcher later married a white woman and it is the descendants of his white wife who claim the fortune.

RACE S

KINFOLK

Lucian Fletcher was born in 1824 at Lynchburg, Va., where he passed a harum-scarum life which came to its first climax when he became involved in a disgraceful shooting scrape. To save his skin, his father, a

well-to-do planter, packed Son Lucian off over the Blue Ridge into what is now West Virginia. And to care for this handsome but troublesome son, planter Fletcher sent along two slaves, Arch and Mary.

Arch died. Lucian again mixed up in some shady gunplay, fled north with Mary. Arrived in Detroit, Lucian decided he would be safer across the river in Windsor, Ont. But Canadian law premitted the immigration of no slaves. So Lucian Fletcher married dusky Mary, settled down in Windsor's Negro district. In 1861 the Canadian census recorded the Fletcher household as consisting of Lucian, "one washerwoman, Mary Fletcher," and four pickaninnies: Sally, Moses, Maria, Sampson. Shortly thereafter a tax list reported Mary as "Mrs. Fletcher, widow and freeholder."

GOLD SHATTERS RACE LINE

Virginia boasts a "social purity law." It was enacted to keep pure the white race. Just how effective it will be remains for history to record. There are those among the Virginians who look with abhorrence toward the intermingling of the races or any connection with a colored person other than in a servile manner. This may be a delicate subject upon which to launch, but nevertheless, in all parts of the South may be found those of our people who claim relationship in some manner to white people. The several shades of complexions among our people from the early days of slavery may have something to do with this assertion. It is left to a prominent white woman of first Virginia lineage to add proof to it and she did so in open court in order to lay claim to a fortune left by a colored woman, who she claims is her half sister. Attorney S. B. Turner died in Chicago several years ago. He was among the leaders of the colored bar and amassed quite a fortune which was left for his wife. Subsequently the wife died. There were several claimants for the fortune. Among these claimants was the Virginia white woman who claims that the deceased was her half sister, being the daughter of her father by a colored woman. The court evidently believed her statement and she was awarded the fortune. No doubt, during Mrs. Turner's life time this white woman failed to recognize her and would have "held up her hands in holy horror" to even think of the relationship. The greed for gold causes many changes, among them relationship to a colored person.

But black Mary was no widow. Her husband, who had gone home to enlist as a private in Lee's Battery of Virginia Light Artillery, was fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with the flower of Southern chivalry against the invading hordes of Yankee "nigger lovers." With the exception of one court-martial and two months in a Federal prison camp in 1865, little is known of Lucian Fletcher's Civil War record. His amatory progress after Appomattox, however, was crystal clear.

Soon Lucian Fletcher began keeping company with a white girl named Frances Everett. When their eldest daughter was 8, the union was solemnized.

In 1932 Frances Everett Fletcher, widow of Lucian Fletcher, died, aged 87. She was survived by one daughter in Cincinnati, two daughters in Charleston, three great-granddaughters in Latonia, Ky., all the descendants of Lucian Fletcher of Lynchburg and all pure white. In 1932 in Chicago died Maria Fletcher Turner, Lucian Fletcher's chocolate-colored daughter by the late slave Mary. Of all his progeny, it turned out that Maria had done the best for herself in the way of worldly goods. She had married an enterprising blackamoor named Shadrick B. Turner who had represented Chicago's Black Belt in the Illinois State Senate. When he died in 1927, he left his widow an estate of \$79,000 and a house on Chicago's South State Street.

So well had the late Maria Fletcher done, in fact, that last week her white half-sisters and white grandnieces were more than willing to acknowledge their mulatto kinfolk in order to win from the Illinois Appellate Court the right to contest the late Maria's will in the hope of cutting a black foster son out of the late Senator Turner's tidy fortune. Commenting on her family's privy past, Lucian's white Daughter Flavonia Fletcher Coffey cheerfully admitted: "Father was in a good many scrapes."

Property-1936

Mississippi.

Chief Foes of Mississippi Sales Tax in Lower Class

Negroes, Particularly, Oppose Plan and Admit They Do Not Understand It; Citizens Who Had Never Paid Direct Levy Express Disapproval

EDITOR'S NOTE—Because of the argument going on over the state for and against the so-called 15-mill limitation on real estate, the subject of taxation generally is of unusual interest. Although it is denied by the tax commission that a sales tax is necessary or contemplated in Georgia to replace the loss of revenue should this limitation be adopted in the November election, a staff writer of the Macon papers was sent to Mississippi last week to interview officials, merchants and consumers on the subject of taxation in that state, and particularly the sales tax because this latter tax is said to have been levied in Mississippi out of the red and made everybody happy at the same time. The stories, this being the fifth of the series, are presented as information and not as argument for or against the sales tax.

By BUFORD BOONE

While the Mississippi sales tax has lost few supporters and has converted many former enemies, opposition still exists.

And among those who still are aligned with supporters of the scheme are cautious citizens who see dangers unless wise and economical operation of the state government becomes a matter of permanent policy.

Based on all the information that could be obtained and all the contacts that could be made in every bracket of society during the few days spent by the Macon papers' representative in Mississippi, opposition to the scheme is centered among the lower classes.

Apparently, many of those who are opposed to the tax do not or cannot vote. Included are thousands of Negroes who never before have paid direct taxes, had nothing whatever to do in adopting the sales tax and who pay it because they have to follow the state's mandate.

Like Georgia, Mississippi has a huge Negro population, and like this state most of the members of the race in the sister southern state are poor, unschooled humans who live through life one jump ahead of nakedness and hunger.

Actual figures show Mississippi had 1,012,965 Negro residents in 1930 for its 996,856 white people.

While a minority of those interviewed were Negroes, not a member of the latter race who was contacted said he realized why the sales tax was collected nor understood for what purpose the money was spent. Their composite opinion was expressed by a Laurel Negro farmer.

"I pay the sales tax because I have to pay it," he said in English not that correctly spoken. "They say it goes to the state, but I don't know what for. I had rather not pay it than pay it, and wouldn't if I could get out of it."

Some other opposition was noted, principally from people who had paid no direct taxes to the state previous to enactment of the sales tax law.

"I think the sales tax law is awful," a housewife said in Laurel. "I certainly am not in favor of it."

Her woman companion agreed. They were well dressed and apparently came from "the great middle class."

While some business operators said handling of the tax is "a lot of trouble" and one said he believes the state should pay the merchants something for their work, only two or three of those interviewed expressed unqualified opposition to the

Bankers Enthusiastic

Bankers, particularly, are enthusiastic over its success. "It was essential to find some new means of raising revenue to be able to sell the state's bonds," declared W. M. Mounger, vice president and every trust officer of the Deposit Bank and Trust Company of Jackson. "Personally, I think the sales tax was the only thing to adopt. Previously, a great many salaried people were paying very little tax. It just wasn't fair to the landown-

ers. The success of the sales tax is indicated by the fact that in the recent race for the senate between Pat Harrison and former Governor Conner, the levy was not made an issue by Harrison."

Early in 1932, high interest had to be paid on state bonds and they had to be sold below par to force the securities to move, Mr. Quin recalled. "But the latest bonds sold were handled on a 3.60 per cent basis, and \$100,000 in short term (one year) notes were handled recently at .74 of one per cent. That shows you how the state's credit stands today."

Warning Note Sounded

"The only thing wrong with the sales tax is that it looks like it is just an additional levy and we are going to keep the ad valorem tax, too," the banker declared.

An even more serious fear of no permanent relief for real estate was expressed by G. P. Bridges, Jackson realtor and former president of the Mississippi Real Estate Association. "We all had hopes that the sales tax would transfer the burden of taxation to something other than real estate," he declared. "It did, to a certain extent. The state ad valorem levy was reduced from eight mills to four mills."

However, he said plants appear to be to raise the rate again next year. He also reported that counties, taking advantage of the cut in the state rate, had raised their own levies, and real estate had continued to suffer.

"My advice to real estate owners of Georgia is to get relief from burdensome property taxes first. If they do not, substitute taxes are liable to be added to those they already have."

Mr. Bridges said interest in real estate investments had dwindled following indication of an increase in the ad valorem rate next year. Real estate in Jackson now is paying 47.5 mills on the dollar, and Mr. Bridges said a 10 per cent increase had been made in valuations.

Druggist Against Tax

S. B. Key, Jackson druggist, was among the few business men contacted who expressed outright opposition to the sales tax, and he said it "was not as bad as we expected it to be."

"I think the system is all wrong," he declared. "Unless we get relief from property taxes, we are just shot twice instead of once. The sales tax has served as an emergency measure, and since the emergency has passed, it should be moved."

Mr. Key said he believes ad valorem taxes affect "the little man as well as the big" because the amount of the tax is figured in rents, in prices of goods, etc. He said he thinks a situation such as that now existing in Mississippi leads to government extravagance.

S. N. Thomas of the Thomas department store also expressed opposition.

"I don't like it, but I just have to pay it," he declared.

J. H. DuPree, retired mail carrier, said he had shown his regard for the tax by buying "six bits worth of them tokens and using them to keep the mails from coming through the tin on the roof of my barn."

A. P. Smith, credit manager of The Emporium, a department store with about the same floor space as Burden and Smith in Macon, said he is among those who have changed their views on the tax.

Little Trouble to Merchants

"When the thing first started it looked like it would be a terrible job," he declared. "We also thought we would find a great inclination of Mississippi people to go out of the state to spend their money, but according to the best information available such has not been the case."

Mr. Smith said he would favor an increase in the sales tax, if some of the privilege taxes could be eliminated and the ad valorem tax cut. Under the system in use in The Emporium, tax is collected in mill tokens, pennies, or nickels on cash purchases, but on accounts, tax is charged on a basis which averages two cents on the dollar. On purchases of less than 29 cents, no tax is charged; from 30 cents to 50 cents, the levy is one cent, and from 51 cents to \$1, the tax is two cents.

"We have no machinery for figuring and showing the exact amount of tax on each purchase made by a credit customer, so we use that method," Mr. Smith explained. "We have found that it averages practically the same as if we totaled each bill, took two per cent of it, and added that at the bottom of the statement as tax."

Tokens Help Druggists

The latter plan is used across the street at Kennington's, regarded as the leading department store in Mississippi.

B. W. Kennington said he and other merchants of the state are "no longer excited about the sales tax. The thoughtful merchant is no longer opposed to the levy, and the tax is being accepted in good grace."

Attitude of Mr. Smith and Mr. Kennington was found to be typical among most merchants of the state. However, institution of the token system last July 1 was a greater boon to business where a considerable volume was done in small-value articles.

Drug stores, for instance, did not charge any tax on articles under 20 cents, and because so many sales were under that figure, each such establishment was drained monthly to pay the levy to the state. A Jackson druggist estimated he is saving \$25 per month because of the tokens (which permit collection of tax down to one mill), while a cashier at the counter in a Meridian pharmacy said the business there is saving from \$100 to \$125 per month because of the tokens.

(TOMORROW — Other Mississippians give views on their sales tax.)

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Missouri.

A WHITE ^{Argument} MAN PUT ¹⁰⁻³⁰⁻³⁶ IN PLACE

Judge Arnold Appoints ^{St. Louis} Senator Kinney To Be ^{Mo.} Executor of \$125,000 Estate

State Senator Michael Kinney of St. Louis, Tuesday was appointed administrator of the estate of Charles H. Turpin, Justice of the Peace in the Fourth District, who died last Christmas Day, leaving a trust estate embracing 700 shares of stock in the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, at present worth nearly \$125,000.

Succeeds Sister

Senator Kinney, appointed by Probate Judge Arnold, succeeds Mrs. Nannie T. Thomas of Webster Groves, sister of Turpin and executor of the estate as well as primary beneficiary of the trust.

The appointment was made after Judge Arnold overruled Mrs. Thomas' motion to dismiss a petition filed by Turpin's son, C. Udell Turpin of Chicago, seeking revocation of testamentary letters issued to Mrs. Thomas, who claimed the stock belonged to the trust and not to the estate.

Turpin's will contained only a \$1 bequest to his son. It made no disposition of the residue of the estate, to which Udell Turpin contends he is entitled if the trust is declared void. The court removed Mrs. Thomas as executor and ordered her to make settlement of her administration at the December term of court.

The general comment of the colored citizens marked disapproval of Judge Arnold's act in appointing a white executor when there are so many competent Negroes who could have served in the capacity.

Property - 1936

New York.

Legacy of Half Million Is Left to N.Y. Youth

Also - American
**David C. Grange, La-
bor Leader, Reveals**

Baltimore, Md.
**Son's Inheritance.
MUST BECOME AN
ENGLISH CITIZEN**

**Bequest Made by His
British God-Father.**

NEW YORK — How he came into possession of a half-million-dollar fortune in England was revealed this week by David E. Grange, one of the leaders in the seamen's strike.

Mr. Grange a mulatto, who owns an extensive Long Island estate, has been a figure in labor battles for nearly twenty-five years.

The fortune, totaling \$500,000 was left to Mr. Grange's son, David E. Havelock Grange, age 10, by the late J. Havelock Wilson, a former member of the British Parliament and an English labor leader. Wilson was the godfather of his son, Mr. Grange revealed.

Mr. Grange disclosed that his own father and Wilson were close friends. His father was Thomas Grange, a native of Glasgow, Scotland.

Fortune in Trust Fund
The \$500,000 was placed in a trust fund for his son, to become his own when he reaches the age of 22. The bequest will become his upon condition that the lad attends Cambridge University and becomes a barrister.

Mr. Grange declared that he did not like this provision of the

will as he wanted his son to grow up an American.

Parents Use Interest

Mr. Grange declared that he and his wife, lived off the interest of the trust fund, which has been placed at their disposal. He also revealed that he was born and reared in Kingston, Jamaica.

He is now involved in the negotiation between ship owners and seamen who have staged a nationwide walk-out, tying up ships on both the Atlantic and Pacific Coast. The department of Labor and the White House have been drawn into the controversy as a settlement is sought. Mr. Grange is vice president of the seaman's Union.

Property - 1936

North Carolina.

Duke Servants Are

Willed \$31,500

Apex American

DURHAM, N.C.—Five servants institutions will receive \$5,000 each are bequeathed \$31,500 and two according to the terms of the will probated last week of Mrs. Sarah P. Duke, white, who died at Blowing Rock and left an estimated estate of \$12,000,000.

Included among the beneficiaries are: Garland Watson, Charlotte Webb, and Johnnie Liles, \$10,000 each; Mollie Molloy, Walter Hardy, and Julia Golsman, \$500 each; Lincoln Hospital \$3,000, and the orphanage at Oxford, \$3,000.

The will included a million dollar bequest to Duke University.

GREAT WRONG TO NEGROES DONE IN CHAPEL HILL TAX

Little Properties Have Been Confiscated by Heavy Paving Assessments

MAY BE TRUE ELSEWHERE

Many a little property holder in North Carolina has been wiped out in the name of progress. In his Chapel Hill Weekly Mr. Louis Graves tells how it happened in Chapel Hill.

He says, I met Rick Taylor, Negro painter, on the street the other day and he showed me his tax bill from the town of Chapel Hill. The total was \$2,878—a lien against property valued for taxation at \$3,600.

Of the \$2,878, about nine-tenths, or \$2,508, is under the head of street assessments; meaning, a charge for the construction of concrete pavement and concrete curb-and-gutter along the front of the property.

Seeing Rick's bill brought to my mind again the cruel wrong done to Negroes living along West Franklin street when they were induced to

agree to the levy against their property would be acquired by barter for this improvement. White gain hunters, and the Negroes would people were assessed, too. But they were thrown out on the street. The present situation cannot be proved doing; and although the levy would be a show-down some day. There has got to be a show-down some day. They were able to pay it. Not so the Negroes. They were bankrupted. They were bankrupted. They have been sold out by the town, under foreclosure. It appears that there is no legal redress. But whatever the law says, the only reason they have not been dispossessed is that the aldermen have let the matter "ride along," probably because they are aware that these humble citizens have been shabbily treated.

The paving and curbing of the street was done some eight or ten years ago. In those days the boom spirit prevailed and municipal governments everywhere were spending money like drunken sailors. The procedure was to circulate a petition for a street improvement; if it was signed by as many as 51 per cent of the property owners, with as much as 51 per cent of the frontage the work went ahead, the cost being divided between the owners and the town.

In this case the Negroes were persuaded to sign by representations that the expenditure would be a wise investment, that their property would be greatly enhanced in value. It is true that, after the improvement was made, some of them could have sold their property at a good price. Maybe a few did sell. But most of them did not want to sell; they wanted to keep on living where they were.

For those who kept their homes, the improvement was of very little value. The benefit, such as it was, was for the motoring public in general, for drivers, resident and non-resident, who sped back and forth along the street.

Labor and materials were high, and the assessment against owners was at the staggering rate of \$7.70 per foot of frontage. It was payable in ten annual installments at 6%. The slump came. The market for real estate practically disappeared.

The negroes could not pay the assessments, and the amount due to the town, principal and interest, piled up.

And so they were sold out. The town holds what are called "certificates of sale" for the property of the delinquent owners and the time within which the certificates could be redeemed has expired. Which means that the town has become the owner of the property. The Negroes are allowed to remain in their homes by indulgence. If the aldermen followed the strict letter of the law, they would sell the certificates at auction, the

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Ohio.

The Porter Property!

"THERE'S TROUBLE A BREWING."

WILL PORTER OBJECTS!

The passing of Miss Porter certainly spells trouble a plenty.

"I desire to dedicate all my estate to the education and promotion of Negro youth, to whom I have devoted most of my life," the will reads.

"I give my whole estate for that purpose except gifts, keepsakes and temporary annuities to relatives and friends. And for the purpose of giving effect to this provision, I establish the Jennie D. Porter Educational Fund."

Life incomes from various real estate holdings are given to her brother, Arthur D. Porter; her nephew, William Porter, Jr.; her brother, William Porter, and to Henrietta Ingram.

Personal effects and jewelry she distributes among relatives and friends. A codicil provides bequests of \$1,000 cash each to her brothers Arthur D. and William Porter, and Henrietta Ingram; \$250 to George Hawkins; \$500 to Virginia Hawkins; \$250 to Otto Mayo, Jr., and \$500 each to Marie Cox and Lela Richman.

Arthur D. Porter and Andrew L. Ingram, Cincinnati, and W. R. Stewart, Youngstown, Ohio, are named executors and trustees.

The trustees are advised to form a trust corporation. They are to give \$5,000 bond each.

Loans of \$10 a month from the trust fund to needy pupils during the school months, "without security other than their promissory notes," are authorized by the will. Only graduates of Harriet Beecher Stowe Junior High School are eligible for such loans.

Value of the estate is estimated at \$20,000 in personal property, and \$30,000 in real estate.

When Miss Porter, several months ago was considered unable to handle her estate, Dr. W. T. Nelson, prominent "Y" man, became her guardian; Mrs. Littlejohn her nurse. Now she is dead. That probably ends their reign. Mr. Will Porter, oldest brother, states that he will fight for his rights and his father's estate. He has engaged attorneys and means business. The end is not yet.

ASK MORTGAGE ON CHATTELS AS BOND FOR RENT

Evidence to be presented in one of the most unusual damage cases in the history of Cleveland was filed in the Court of Common Pleas last week by Norman L. McGhee, attorney for Mrs. Estella Strong, against Stanley B. Clatyn. Mrs. Strong seeks judgement for damages amounting to \$15,000. Mrs. Strong charges that Clatyn, who owns or has control over the premises at 2017 Central ave., assaulted her on August 4 when he came to her suite and demanded why she had not acted in accordance with a verbal demand he had made. She told him that she had been unable to find other rooms and that she felt that he could not throw her things out as he had threatened, without first taking proper legal steps, and that as a matter of fact she had another week before her month was up.

To this according to her story, he remarked that she was "just a damn fool", if she thought he couldn't and he assaulted her by

slapping her, brutally striking her about the face and head, and kicking her in the abdomen. Medical examination revealed that she was badly bruised and painfully injured. The plaintiff suffers from throbbing headaches and loss of sleep. She also suffered a severe shock to her nervous system. All this brutality was administered in a hallway of the building with unknown persons looking on.

A personal interview brings light upon a new factor in the case. On renting the suite she said she had to have a chattel mortgage on her furniture as security for future rent, same to be taken in case of payment default. Further investigation revealed that this is general practice by local landlords of that sector as well as in other sections of the city.

One landlord is reported to have taken advantage of this practice to secure for himself almost enough furniture to open a second hand furniture store. This is a new racket and problem facing Negro tenants.

Property-1936

U. S. Court In Oklahoma To Hear Plea Of Heirs To Barnett's Millions

Petition to Intervene, Submitted by Four Chicagoans, Is Allowed.

CHICAGO, Oct. 15—Definite word was received here last week revealing the favorable ruling of the United States District Court in Muskogee, Okla., in the case involving the final disposition of the late Jackson Barnett's estate. supposed to be in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000. The petition to intervene filed some time ago with this court by four Chicagoans and one Oklahoman, has been allowed.

Attorney C. C. Wimbish, chief counsel for the petitioners, stated that he expected an early call of the case in which he will make a personal appearance. Chicagoans who claim the right to the Barnett millions because of being the nearest relatives of the late millionaire are: Creek Barnett, 5925 Wabash Avenue; Birdie Barnett, and her brothers, Clarence and Garfield, Jr., all of 6104 Prairie Avenue.

**MILLIONAIRE
10 YEARS AGO;
DIES PAUPER**

**Luther Manuel of Oklahoma
Succumbs at Only Piece
Of Property Left**

BOYNTON, Okla. — (ANS)—Luther E. Manuel, who at 21 was a millionaire, died a pauper at 33 Friday night, December 11, at the mansion he built for his mother near here in his prosperous days. At one time worth a million and a half dollars, Manuel died with nothing left of his vast fortune

Married Kansas City Girl

On August 19, 1927, in Chicago, Manuel married Miss Louise Moore, daughter of Alfred Moore, 1418 Euclid avenue, Kansas City, Mo., whom he met on visits to Kansas City. When they were married, Manuel was 24, his bride 18.

They made their home in Muskogee in the large 10-room home at 324 N. Eleventh street. They had three cars, a Packard coupe, Packard sedan and Buick coupe at one time, the Buick being a birthday present to his wife.

Mrs. Manuel obtained a divorce in 1929 and received a \$25,000 cash settlement. She later married Dr. Charles W. West of Washington. Manuel married Miss Thelma Bozeman from whom he was separated at death.

To settle his divorce suit, Manuel mortgaged his entire estate except his mother's home for \$80,000.

Manuel was of a generous spirit. Not only did he give liberally to his friends but he contributed to several educational institutions.

Manuel was fourth vice president of the National Negro Business League and was a member of the Elks lodge.

Funeral services for Manuel were held Tuesday.

Manuel is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mulsey Mae Manuel; his wife, Mrs. Thelma Bozeman Manuel; two sisters, Mrs. Fred Lee and Mrs. A. Davis, both of Muskogee, and two brothers.

Manuel's death was attributed to double pneumonia, according to attending physicians. Manuel's fortune came from oil wells discovered on a 180-acre tract of land allotted to the government when the territory of Oklahoma became a state. He was 14 then.

The estate was managed by Ed K. Brook, his guardian, until Manuel became of age. All property and money were turned over to Manuel in 1927, Brook said.

Native Oklahoman

Born in Boynton on February 1, 1903, Manuel went to Boston when he was about 14 and attended the Boston high school of commerce there. He lived with the Courtney family there for several years.

He also attended the Lincoln university high school in Jefferson City for a year.

Before he lost his fortune, Manuel lived in princely style. He travelled extensively all over the country, engaging drawing rooms for parties of friends and entertaining friends on yacht trips.

He thought nothing of lending friends from \$100 to \$1,000 with no thought of ever being repaid.

In Muskogee, he owned a pretentious 10-room home at 324 N. Eleventh street where he employed butler, maids, chauffeur, housemen and other servants.

In Muskogee, he owned several blocks of property between Main and Second streets and West Broadway. He owned the Porter apartment at 703 West Okmulgee avenue, the Brown Produce company building on Columbus avenue. In addition, he owned 787 acres of land in Craig county and 600 acres in Muskogee county.

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South America

N.Y. Heiress to Coffee Estate Can't Marry

Will Lose Brazilian Fortune if She Weds Before 30.

Also American
GRANDDAD CUTS

OFF OTHER KIN

5-20-36
Early Unsuccessful Marriage Blamed.

NEW YORK. — Fortune in the form of a legacy which makes her one of the richest girls in New York smiled on Miss Amelia Powell of Bayside, Long Island, but will condemn her to nine years of single blessedness.

Miss Powell inherited the coffee plantations and extensive export business of her grandfather, the late Peter Merrell of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and has just returned to the States after establishing her identity and claiming her heritage.

Gift Had Strings

But the gift, she discovered, had a string attached. The will had a stipulation that if she weds before she is 30, she forfeits all claim to the estate and the fortune. She is only 21 now.

Miss Powell spent nearly five months in Brazil, sailing in January with her attorney, and returned last week.

By the terms of the will she will receive a liberal weekly allowance for nine years and when she reaches 30, if she is still unwed, she will come into the bulk of the estate.

Mr. Merrell, a native of Cuba resided in Brazil for more than 30 years and was past 60 when he died. He cut off all of his relatives with the exception of his granddaughter and a sister, Mrs. Delores Cortez of Chicago, without

a penny. Mrs. Cortez and her Chicago attorney, accompanied Miss Powell to Brazil.

Blames Early Marriage

The reason for the stipulation about marriage in the will, it is said, was that Mr. Merrell blamed his wrecked life on the fact that he married early.

His wife, Mrs. Susan Merrell, of Durham, N.C., is said to have left him some thirty years ago and refused to accompany him to Brazil, when he went to seek his fortune.

She also kept their two daughters in America, while adventurous Peter Merrell went it alone — a very sad man who was through with women for life.

Visited America

About three years ago, Mr. Merrell, wealthy and rugged, came to America to look over his brood. He found his two daughters had married and he also discovered Amelia, his granddaughter, and decided that she would be his heiress.

He kept his plans to himself, but when he died, Amelia was notified of her good fortune. Miss Powell is the daughter of Mrs. Rena Powell also of Durham, N.C.

Not Bothered

When asked whether the marriage restriction clause affected her, Miss Powell declared that, at the present, she isn't bothered, because she doesn't have any boy friends she takes seriously. She admitted, however, that nine years "is a long time to wait for a man."

Property - 1936 -

Texas.

Oil Makes Negroes Ut Jefferson Prosperous Are 75 Per Cent Of The Population

By R. S. WATSON

JEFFERSON.—Pockets in Jefferson that have long been empty are now full of money. Business has taken on new life. A once proud metropolis of Texas is once more catching step with the march of progress. Jefferson has become an oil city.

Negroes, who comprise 75 percent of the population of Jefferson and Marion counties, are receiving a large share of the oil money which has come to this section. They are becoming rich, it is reported, to the extent that kidnapers are threatening their children.

Jefferson has a splendid public school system with Prof. Pitts at the head, and a staff of more than twelve teachers. There are a half dozen churches, numerous business places and one hotel. There is one Negro doctor and one lawyer, who with his assistants, is reclaiming thousands of dollars worth of oil lands for colored people.

RANCH OWNERS HOSTS AT PICNIC AND ROUND - UP

EAGLE.—Felix and O. B. Jackson, owners of the F. T. L. ranch, largest colored ranch in these parts, had a round-up and free picnic Saturday, October 31 on their picturesque ranch. They branded 171 choice calves.

About one hundred people were there and enjoyed the calf-throwing and calf-riding. Some of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of our town were present. Among them were Mrs. Matt Etta Mayes, Mrs. Charlotte Lewis, William Lewis, H. T. Mayes, Jacob

Branch and A. Baker. Mr. Norman and friend from Beaumont were out of town guests.

Regular cowboys on the F. T. L. ranch are O. G. and E. P. Mayes, Milton White, Lazary Drew, Hardy Humphrey and Elva Lewis.